TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington

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Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, announced today that the traditional sampling and testing of 1943 coinage as provided by law will bring together at the Philadelphia Mint Wednesday and Thursday members of an Annual Assay Commission appointed by the President.

The Commission this year will consist of eleven appointed and three ex-officio members.

They are:

C. E. Bell, passenger traffic manager, Seaboard Railway Co., Norfolk, Va.; Dr. J. Ellwood Amos, associate professor of finance, University of Pittsburgh; Ray A. van Clief, New York City business man, now living at the Westchester Apartments, Washington, D. C.; Fred R. Mann, Philadelphia business leader; Miss Grace Nixon, former postmistress, Phillipsburg, New Jersey; Arthur T. Pienkowsky, 2923 Tilden Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., recently retired weights expert of the Bureau of Standards; William E. Leahy, 821 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., Selective Service official, attorney, and president of Columbus University; Mrs. Hale Shenefield, 3136 Newark Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., instructor at American University; Dr. Benjamin Salzer, New York City physician; Mrs. Brewer L. Stouffer, Hagerstown, Md., woman counsellor for Fairchild Aircraft Corp.; and Morton Schwartz, New York City business man.

Statutory, ex-officio members are Judge William H. Kirkpatrick, of the United States District court for Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Preston Delano, Comptroller of the Currency, Washington; and Joseph Buford, assayer, the United States Assay Office, New York City.

The annual "trial of the coins", as the function is known, has been made without interruption since 1792. At all United States Mints, one of each 2,000 silver coins produced is taken at random, and preserved under seal, for testing by the Assay Commission. The procedure was set up by the early lawmakers to insure that the nation's money is maintained at standards of fineness and weight.

Members of the Commission serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for their expenses. They will receive a special medal as a token of their service.

Mint activities of extra-curricular interest to the Commission this year include the recently resumed coinage of bronze one cent pieces, in which scrapped shell cases and new copper are combined; and the production of thousands of medals for heroes of the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

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